

33 Bent Tree Drive  
Centerville, MA  
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2070 '99 MAY 18 May 15, 1999

Food and Drug Administration  
Rockville,  
MD

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am writing in regard to proposed standards for irradiation of food (Docket HFA-305).


As a citizen and a parent, I expect every food that is irradiated to be labelled as such. People have a right to know what's being done with their food so they can make informed choices. To not label irradiated food is deceptive and unethical, especially considering that no-one, including the FDA and the large food companies, know what the long term effects of irradiation in food are. This combined with the fact that foods are increasingly genetically engineered could eventually lead to disaster.

Also, there should be no expiration of the irradiation label at some time in the future. As long as food is irradiated, people have a right to know it. If the irradiation label were withdrawn, people might think that food was no longer being irradiated when in fact it was.

Plants and animals have developed over the millennia and these foods are a perfect 'fit' for the human body. There is no need to "improve" food by altering it genetically or by means of radiation. The fact that these changes are sponsored by large corporations who want everything done in secret and whose motives are less than noble, should be a red flag to anyone.

It seems to me that the FDA often puts the health and profitability of the multinational corporations above that of the public. Let that not be the case this time.

Yours truly,

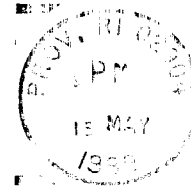
  
Patricia Panitz

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